

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03422 152003Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 151841Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0020
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3422

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS AND VIENNA TALKS: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF: STATE 083772

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH BITSIOS TODAY WE HAD A LONG DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS AND THE RECENT VIENNA ALKS. I BRIEFED HIM IN DETAIL ON U.S. VIEWS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE VIENNA TALKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, READING ALOUD TO BITSIOS ALMOST VERBATIM THE LONG PARAGRAPH THREE OF THAT MESSAGE. I ALSO BRIEFED HIM IN A GENERAL WAY ON THE CONTACTS HERE IN ATHENS LAST WEEKEND WITH LEDSKY, MCFARLAND AND AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THIS INFORMATION, MOST OF WHICH HE HAD ALREADY HAD IN A REPORT FROM HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE WENT ON TOSAY HE WANTED TOMAKE TWO RELATIVELY MARGINAL POINTS WITH ME AND THEN EXPRESS ON
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IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENT ON "SUBSTANCE".

3. ON THE MARGINAL ISSUES,HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL HAD EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS THAT "NOTHING CAN BE DONE" OF ANY REAL CONSEQUENCE WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS IN JUNE.

IF THE U.S. THOUGHT THAT WERE TRUE, WHY WERE WE THEN
IN SUCH A HURRY TO PRESS AHEAD FOR THE VIENNA TALKS,
PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS FELT THEY HAD
BEEN TO SOME EXTENT MISLED IN WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TURKISH
SIDE? ON THE SECONDMARGINAL POINT, HE SAID,SOME
U.S. OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING DENKTASH ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE TURKISH POSITION IN
VIENNA. HE SAID THAT WE WOULD BE WRONG TO MAKE A
DISTINCTION BETWEEN DENKTASH AND ANKARA BECAUSE THE GREEK
CHARGE IN ANKARA HAD BEEN INFORMED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO
THAT ANKARA HAD FULLY CONCURRED IN ALL THE PROPOSALS
AND POSITIONS OF THE TURKISH SIDE.

4. BEFORE GOING ON TO HIS POINT OF SUBSTANTIVE
DISAGREEMENT WITH US, I TOLD BITSIOS I WOULD REPORT
HIS OBSERVATIONS TO WASHINGTON. ON HIS FIRST MARGINAL POINT,
HOWEVER, I SAID I DOUBTED THAT IT WAS THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT "NOTHING" COULD BE DONE WITH RESPECT
TO CYPRUS OF ANY REAL CONSEQUENCE BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS.
WHILE IT MIGHT BE TRUE AND INDEED WAS PERFECTLY OBVIOUS THAT
THE CYPRUS ISSUES COULD NOT BE SETTLED BEFORE MANY MONTHS HAD
PASSED, AND CLIFFORD HAD MADE THAT POINT IN EXPRESSING HIS
VIEWS PUBLICLY DURING AND FOLLOWINGHIS VISIT TO THE AREA,
IT CERTAINLY DID NOT FOLLOW THAT "NOTHING" COULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED. INDEED, I REMINDED HIM OF THE POINTS I HAD MADE
IN JUST BRIEFING HIM IN WHICH WE SAW A NUMBER OF POSITIVE
ASPECTS TO THE VIENNA TALKS.

5. ON A MAJOR POINT OF SUBSTANCE, BITSIOS SAID THATHE DID NOT
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AGREE WITH THE U.S. APPARENTLY BRACKETING THE GREEK
CYPRIOTS AND TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS IN VIENNA AS
BEING RELATIVELY COMPARABLE BOTH INTHEIR VALUE AND
DEFICIENCIES. HE MADE A STRONG CASE FOR THE GREEK SIDE'S
TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL BEING A TRUE "BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION".
HOWEVER, THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS' PROPOSAL WAS SO FAR FROM
BEARING ANY RELATIONSHIP TO A "FEDERAL" SYSTEM AS NOT TO PROVIDE
A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AS PAPADOPOULOS HAD POINTED OUT IN
HIS DEVASTATING CRITIQUE AND REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.
BITSIOS SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND OUR TRYING TO BRACKET THE
TWO PROPOSALS AND CHARACTERIZE THEM MORE OR LESS EQUALLY,
AS A SORT OF DIPLOMATIC TACTIC OF EVENHANDEDNESS. HOWEVER,
HE SAID HE HAD BEEN GRAPPLING WITH THESE PROBLEMS FOR A LONG
TIME AND HE DID NOT WISH FOR US TO THINK THAT HE ACCEPTED OR
AGREED WITH SUCH A CHARACTERIZATION. INDEED, HE INTIMATED THAT
WALDHEIM SHARED HIS VIES AND HAD REFLECTED A SIMILAR VIEW
IN HIS CONTACTS WITH THE GREEK SIDE. I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF
WALDHEIM'S VIEWS IN DETAIL BUT WOULD REPORT THESE
AND BITSIOS' OTHER COMMENTS AND OBSERVATONS TO WASHINGTON.

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